

# Arizona Girls State Independent



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## Busy Day at Girls State Ends with Inspiring Candidate Meet-and-Greet

BY TATUM YOUNG  
Juniper City Reporter

Wow! What a busy day for everyone in Girls State! Whether it was a city meeting, announcements at the flagpole, or meal time, I'm sure everyone is ready for some good rest.

Despite all the activities, the social event of yesterday was definitely "Meet the Candidates". During this hour period all girls were able to get together and introduce themselves, their platform, and what they were running for.

There is not a single candidate that I saw that was not qualified for the job, which really speaks volumes about the excellence and posture of everyone who has been



selected to attend Girls State.

From here, elections will be held today after lunch via a form on the internet designed for faster and more efficient results. I encourage everyone to seek a

member from the election board of their city to gather further details because once voting is closed, it will not be reopened.

I cannot wait to hear all the speeches and get a true grasp of what each candidate is passionate about. The excitement and creativity of clever campaigns makes me excited about what these girls could accomplish if given more than an hour or two to make signs and find alluring ways to advertise themselves.

The spirit of the authentic democratic process is alive and well here at Girls State. Time to rest up and give another 110% of effort and energy tomorrow!

## The Yucca Games

BY ELISE MITCHELL AND AMELIA WALLS  
Yucca City Reporters

Yucca city came up with a fascinating game called the Yucca Games which is a highly competitive, massively popular game of hide and seek.

In this, members of this city hide in the botanical gardens, covered in trees and greenery, in the center of their city to win the coveted position of victor.

These games are meant to engage everyone in their community and promote friendly competition. The city decided to enact this tradition yearly to both bring in more revenue through the popularity and competition of the game and also to promote friendship and a sense of unity in the community when

they all come together.

The goal of the games was to pick two to three seekers, who have to find all the other players within 10 minutes to claim victory.

To win, hiders must stay hidden for the entire 10 minutes without being found. The first 2 people found would become the seekers for the next round of the Yucca Games.

There was another edition added to the games in which 2 players are chosen to be blindfolded. They must then seek out the other players based only on their other senses and when found the other players were eliminated until only 2 players remained. Once this happened, those 2 players were chosen to be the victors of the Yucca games.

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# And Election Season Comes To a Close...

BY ELIZABETH BENNETT  
 Cholla City Reporter

Girls State citizens ran for both county and state offices today. Each candidate, nearly vibrating with nerves and excitement, brought their all to the table, advocating for themselves, attracting votes, and making a case why their bill should send them to Girls Nation.

Secretary in State and Girls Nation candidate Aarna Dharia from Ocotillo city shocked the crowd by starting her speech with a simple word, "Vagina." While this may seem completely inappropriate without context, this symbolized the exact message Dharia was trying to get across: Sex education in schools must be improved to end the taboo surrounding sexual abuse and intercourse without consent.

At the conclusion of the general candidates'

speeches for office, city reporters from across Girl State took turns asking real and challenging questions to the Governor and Secretary of State candidates.

Some of these questions included "What separates you from your candidate?," "What measures will you take in office to address the teacher shortage?," and "How will do you plan to attract voters from both parties despite being a Federalist/Nationalist?"

Candidates' ease to demonstrate their knowledge on policy and current issue in American policies was incredibly admirable and built strong trust with voters.

Girls State citizens certainly have difficult decisions to make tomorrow morning in the General Election. But after the chaos of campaigns, it's safe to say Girls State is in good hands, no matter who wins the final vote.



# Arizona Girls State: Unity and Leadership Through Platform Committees

BY TATUM YOUNG  
Juniper City Reporter

This story was scheduled to run on June 2nd.

As our Precinct Committeemen (PC) gathered for the first time to establish their party platforms, not only did the two political parties officially get rolling, but ultimately a community was formed and ideas came to life.

In a world that preys on insecurities and doubt, our girls have stepped up with confidence to advocate for their beliefs through effective communication and by embodying an inviting atmosphere.

Putting our political differences aside, we can all agree that the young women of Girls State have the potential to create a legacy of lasting change.

For those who could not join us, in the first PC meeting, elected committeemen

were grouped with fellow committeemen from their county.

After introductions were made, nominations for Precinct Party Chairmen were chosen and gave brief but firm speeches.

After the election our party chairman, began separating us into committees.

The first committee is called the Platform Committee. Their job is to outline the beliefs of their political party, and offer suggested solutions that we can offer throughout the course of the campaign and election.

The second committee is the Slate Committee and their job is to encourage members of their political party to run, in hopes to have as many offices filled by their

desired party.

And finally, the heart of the mission is the Spirit Committee, this job entitles creating slogans and tunes that draw attraction and support to the party.

This part of government is easy to overlook, but it truly unites the political party. The effects of intentional planning and strong advertisement is a tool that could be the difference between a victory or loss.

It is a beautiful and inspiring moment to see girls from all over Arizona come together and fully embrace the political party they were assigned by contributing their own personal touch to the decisions and beliefs of the campaign.

Good luck to both Nationalists and Federalists!



## The Background of Kimberly Yee

CADY TRAUSCH  
Manzanita City Reporter

Today us girls heard from the current Arizona state treasurer, Kimberly Yee.

Kimberly Yee was the first female in Arizona to hold this position. She was a trail blazer for women in many aspects in Arizona, being as though she was also the second woman to be the majority leader for Arizona senate, following Sandra Day O'Connor.

During her time we learned about her background and process to get to the position she currently holds.

From the surface level Yee was a great speaker to inspire young women to get involved in politics and not be afraid to put yourself into spaces that are male dominated.

But, after conducting some further background research into Yee's time in politics and her stance on many issues that con-

cern women and young Americans, I came across some key differences in her policies and the ones that are being made within Girls State.

As a disclaimer this information is not to sway any readers one way or the other, it is simply to educate the public.

In 2018 in Yee's time as majority senate leader, Yee was the co-founder for SB 1394 which enforces all hospitals and doctors to report any abortions or possible abortions that have taken place in that hospital.

The bill does slightly protect the mother in that her name is not released or reported. They do however reporter her age, race, and several other pieces of information.

This bill limits the security and privacy that is established between the woman, her body, and the doctor.

In 2017 Yee voted yes on SB 1122 which authorized the sales of firearms in Arizona with no background check. Limiting the

safety that goes into ensuring these lethal weapons do not get put in the wrong hands.

The bill's reading is: Notwithstanding any other law, this state and a city, town or county shall not require as a condition of a private sale, Gift, donation or other transfer of personal property that the owner of the personal property search or FACILITATE the search of any federal or state databases and shall not require that a third party be involved.

This leaves a lot to interpretation especially in regards to firearms.

While I believe it is important to support all minorities in politics, especially women, to ensure a more diverse, equitable government. I simultaneously believe that in politics the most important aspect to look at when deciding to vote/support a candidate is their character and the policies they support.